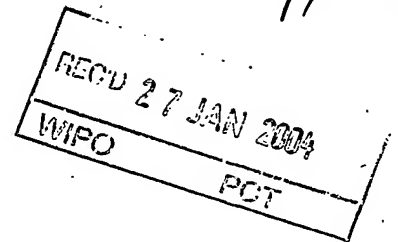


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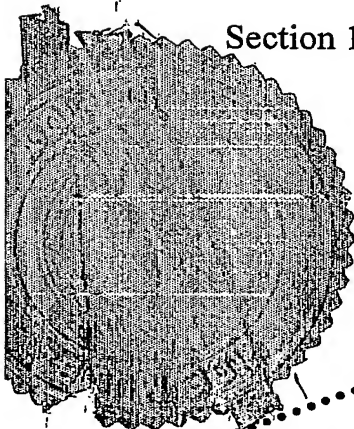
10/532066

THE PATENTS ACT, 1970



IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED THAT, the annex is a true copy of Application & complete specification filed on 21.10.2002 in respect of Patent Application No. 917/MUM/2002 of Pidilite Industries Ltd., a company registered under the Companies Act 1956 & having its registered office at Regent Chambers, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400021.

This certificate is issued under the powers vested in me under Section 147 (1) of the Patents Act, 1970.



..... Dated this 6th day of November 2003

T. A. Haafiez

(M.A. HAAFEZ)

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FORM 1
THE PATENTS ACT, 1970
APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF A PATENT (Section 5 and Rule 33A)

(IN TRIPLICATE)

We, **PIDILITE INDUSTRIES LTD.**, a company registered under the Companies Act 1956
having its registered office at Regent Chambers, Nariman Point, Mumbai – 400021
Maharashtra, India, hereby declare

1.(a) that we are in possession of an invention titled

A DEVICE FOR INSTANT MANUFACTURE OF CUSTOMIZED PAINT, A CONTROL SYSTEM FOR USE IN THE SAID DEVICE AND A PROCESS FOR MAKING THE PAINT USING THE DEVICE

(b) that the complete specification relating to this invention is filed with this application,

(c) that there is no lawful ground of objection to the grant of a patent to us,

2. (further declare) that the inventor for the said invention is

Madhukar Balvantray Parekh of 41, Landmark, 4th Floor, Carmichael Road, Mumbai – 400026, Maharashtra, India, a citizen & resident of India,

3. that we are the assignees of the true and first inventor,

4. that our address for service in India is (as follows) :

Mr. Madhukar Balvantray Parekh, (Managing Director), Pidilite Industries Ltd.,

Ramkrishna Mandir Road, Andheri East, Mumbai – 400 059, Maharashtra, India.

5. I, the true and first inventor for this invention declare that the applicants herein are my assignees.

(Signed) *Madhukar Parekh*
(Madhukar Balvantray Parekh)

6. We further declare that to the best of our knowledge, information and belief the fact and

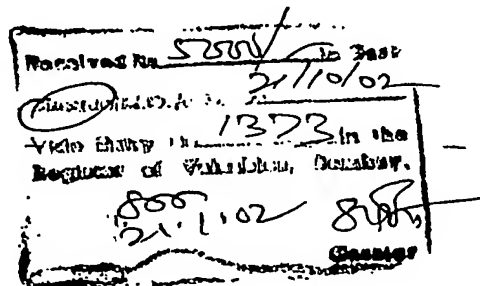
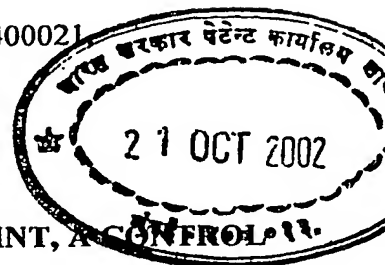
matters stated herein are correct and that there is no lawful ground of objection to the grant of a patent to us on this application.

7. The following attachments are submitted with the application :

(a) complete specification (in triplicate)

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MUM

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ORIGINAL

(b) abstract of the invention (3 pages, in triplicate)

(c) drawings, (4 sheets, in triplicate)

(d) fee Rs. 5000.00 (rupees five thousand only) by bank draft bearing no. 194831

dated 27/08/2002 drawn on HDFC BANK LTD.

We request that a patent may be granted to us for the said invention.

Dated this 21st day of October 2002

(Signed)

Madhukar Balvantray Parekh

Madhukar Balvantray Parekh
(Managing Director)
Pidilite Industries Ltd.

The Controller of Patents,
The Patents Office Branch,
Mumbai



FORM 2
THE PATENTS ACT 70

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION
SECTION 10

**A DEVICE FOR INSTANT MANUFACTURE OF CUSTOMIZED PAINT, A
CONTROL SYSTEM FOR USE IN THE SAID DEVICE AND A PROCESS FOR
MAKING THE PAINT USING THE DEVICE**

ORIGINAL

**PIDILITE INDUSTRIES LTD., A COMPANY REGISTERED UNDER THE
INDIAN COMPANIES ACT 1956 HAVING ITS REGISTERED OFFICE
LOCATED AT REGENT CHAMBERS, NARIMAN POINT,
MUMBAI – 400021, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA.**

**THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION PARTICULARLY DESCRIBES AND
ASCERTAINS THE NATURE AND THE MANNER IN WHICH THE
INVENTION IS TO BE PERFORMED.**

917/मुंबई/2002
MUM

12 OCT 2002

Field of the Invention:

This invention relates to a device for instant manufacture of customized paint.

The device of the present invention is useful for the manufacture of the desired paint at the point of sale (retailer or stockist). The device of the present invention facilitates not only instant manufacture of paint of desired quality but also in desired quantity at an affordable cost to the customer. Further, by employing the device of the present invention, the customer can manufacture paint nearest to his/her choice at a cost, which is in the desired range by mixing and matching properties of different grades of paints available in the market. For example, a particular paint available in market is very good in hiding, but less in wet scrub than desired. Using the present invention, customer can retain the hiding property, as well as increase the wet scrub by accepting a slightly higher cost or compromise slightly on hiding and get higher wet scrub at same cost. Thus the customer can adjust the properties like the contrast ratio (hiding), whiteness, wet scrub, colour depth, gloss, stain resistance, etc. using the above menu-driven machine. In other words, the device of the present invention is useful for manufacture of all types of paints with infinite combinations of properties and is a unique one.

The invention also relates to a Control system useful in the above mentioned device and a process for making the paint using the device.

The paint manufactured using the device of the present invention can be applied on surfaces such as interior or exterior walls of any building, or any structure.

Background of Invention:

There are, currently, a variety of paints and protective coatings available in the market, which are useful for applying onto surfaces of buildings and structures. Presently these paints and coatings are manufactured in factories and supplied in several pack sizes and

3

grades. The customer has to be content by selecting the readymade paints or coatings from the limited choice of pack sizes, quality and price range available in the market. The customer cannot select the precise quantity required or the precise price range based on his/her own preferences.

Presently paints and coatings are manufactured in bulk in plants and are distributed in different size packs through distributors and retailers. For a particular grade of paint, a minimum bulk batch size has to be made. Inventory of different grades of readymade paints has to be maintained. Sometimes, non-moving stock may lead to dead stock & expiry of shelf life.

Currently there is no system - apparatus or process - by which a customer can select the ingredients and manufacture the desired quality of the paint of his/her choice at a cost which he/she can afford. In the present times, the customization is limited to the selection of colours for standard quality / grade of Base Paint. Base paint of few standard types is manufactured in a factory and it is used for colouring. It is not possible to alter the properties of the base paint through this tinting / colouring device. Customer can choose a particular shade from thousands of shades of colour as shown on the displayed shade card. This chosen colour is entered into Automatic Colourant Dispensing Machine, which dispenses colourants into pre-filled base paint containers to create the desired colour. Colourant quantity for particular base paint and shade is stored in the computer.

If a customer's paint colour needs to match a particular sample colour, then this sample colour is read by spectrophotometer and colour value is determined. This colour value is then converted by colour matching programme of machine to produce a recipe of colourants to achieve this colour for the Base Paint. These colourants are dispensed by machine into the base paint to create the desired colour.

The applicants being in the field of manufacture of paints and coatings, thought about the advantages of providing a system - apparatus / process - which will facilitate manufacture

of paint having customer's choice of properties and at affordable cost, at the point of sale, (such as the shop of the retailer or stockist). A system for the manufacture of customized paint with infinitely variable combination of properties and at a cost desired by the customer is currently not available. Therefore, the invention for which protection is sought for in this application is novel.

In other words, by providing a system, which will facilitate instant manufacturing of customized paint at the point of purchase, the customer will be placed in an advantageous position, because, such a system will help the customer to select a combination of functional parameters of the paint, price range for the paint and quantity of paint whereby the device with the help of embedded control system will determine the exact proportion in which the ingredients are to be mixed and dispensed, and carry out the mixing process, then dispense the paint immediately.

Recognizing the importance of such a system namely, a device/process, the applicants took up research & development work to develop a device/process for instant manufacture of customized paint.

Therefore, the main objective of the present invention is to provide a device for instant manufacture of customized paint by choosing from infinitely variable combination of properties.

Other objectives can be summarised as follows :

1. to provide a device for instant manufacture of customized paint at the point of purchase overcoming the limitations of the present day paints.
2. to provide a device for instant manufacture of customized paint, which allows the customer to select the paint quality parameters, required by him/her and at a cost which he/she can afford.

3. to provide a device for instant manufacture of customized paint, which helps in the possibility of infinitely varying combinations of the ingredients used to get a variety of paints.
4. to provide a device for instant manufacture of customized paint by which the customer pays for exactly what he/she wants and is not charged an average/general cost, which is the case with prior art, thereby giving him/her the best value for money.
5. To provide a device for instant manufacture of customized paint in which the customer can select and incorporate in the paint, in a cost effective manner, properties required for specific applications such as various interior areas of his / her house, which need painting like, ceiling, walls of living room, bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom, etc., which need different properties of paint. For example, the paint for coating the ceiling may require very high whiteness, low to medium wet scrub, lower colour depth and high opacity at a lower cost. The paint required for walls of the drawing room & bedroom may require medium wet scrub, lower colour depth, etc. The paint required for kitchen may require high stain resistance and wet scrub for easy cleaning of food stains, etc.
6. to provide a device for instant manufacture of customized paint which facilitates the customer to select a paint such as white base suitable for his / her choice of colour depth, etc. which can later be coloured using required stainers to achieve, higher colour depth capability for deeper shades, etc.
7. to provide a device for instant manufacture of customized paint having a compact design, which can be easily assembled at the desired site such as distributor's site.

8. to provide a device for instant manufacture of customized paint which can be operated by a layman without any skill.
9. to provide an embedded control system, a control logic to translate the wish of the customer to sequence of operation of various components of the device with the help of the software for instant manufacture of customised paint.
10. to provide a process for the instant manufacture of customized paint employing the device of the present invention.

The invention has been developed on the basis of our findings, on sustained R & D, that if a device is fabricated and provided with a control system driven by a software program (i) which will calculate ingredients to manufacture paint within the budget while keeping in view the desired properties / requirements / applications (ii) which will convert desired properties / requirements of customer into proportion and quantity of each paint ingredients, (iii) and which will dispense the paint ingredients used in the manufacture of paints automatically at defined quantities and proportions (iv) mixing of the selected and dispensed paint ingredient quantities and proportions at the site, to achieve the final Paint satisfying all the desired requirements of customer, the above objectives can be achieved.

The invention is described with reference to the figures shown in the drawings accompanying this specification as an illustration. Invention can, however, be used for manufacture of paints with broader selection of performance parameters than described in the illustration.

In the attachments, Fig. 1 shows an embodiment of the device of the present invention, representing a plan view of the device (having two cans without the rollers).

Fig. 2 represents the plan view of another embodiment of the device of the present invention (having three cans with rollers).

Fig. 3 represents the electronic connections of the Control system of the device of the present invention.

Fig. 4 represents the flow chart showing the operation of the device.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a device for instant manufacture of customized paint which comprises a container (1) housing at least two cans (2) for holding the ingredients useful for preparing the paint, each can being provided with an opening through which the cans are interconnected by means of a pipe (3), the pipe (3) being provided with valves (4) which operate on electronic signals for adjusting the flow of the said ingredients from the said cans (2), the pipe (5) being connected to a pump (6) for pumping the said ingredients from the said cans (2) into the paint container (7), the pump (6) being provided with a variable frequency drive (VFD) (8) for varying the flow rate of the quantities of the said ingredients from the said cans (2) to the container, the paint container (7) being removably placed on a weighing platform (9), for weighing the paint formed in the paint container (7), the weight being transmitted to a control system (10), to control the variable frequency drive (VFD) (8), pump (6) and valve (4), the control system (10), comprising an embedded controller having a LCD (liquid crystal display) (11) provided with a central processing unit (14), the output of weighing platform (9) being connected to the central processing unit (14), one terminal of the central processing unit being connected to the LCD (liquid crystal display) (11), second terminal of the central processing unit (14) being connected to a smart card (15), the third terminal of the central processing unit interacting with the memory (17), the fourth terminal of the central processing unit being connected to the input of the digital input/output device (16), the output of the digital input/output device (16) being connected to a relay board (18) and the output of the relay board (18) being connected to the variable frequency drive (8), and to the valves (4) and a membrane keyboard (12) is provided for human interface.

According to another embodiment of the present invention it is provided with a control system (10) for use in a device as defined above which comprises an embedded controller having a LCD (liquid crystal display) (11) provided with a central processing unit (14), the output of weighing platform (9) being connected to the central processing unit (14), one terminal of the central processing unit being connected to the LCD (liquid crystal display) (11), second terminal of the central processing unit (14) being connected to a smart card (15), the third terminal of the central processing unit interacting with the memory (17), the fourth terminal of the central processing unit being connected to the input of the digital input/output device (16), the output of the digital input/output device (16) being connected to a relay board (18) and the output of the relay board (18) being connected to the variable frequency drive (8), and to the valves (4) and membrane keyboard (12) for human interface.

According to another embodiment of the present invention it is provided with a method for instant manufacturing of customized paint using the device as defined above.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the main container housing (1) may be partly closed as shown in Fig. 1. It may also be provided with rollers (13) to facilitate easy installations of the paint ingredient cans (2) as shown in Fig. 2.

Though the invention has been described with reference to two and three cans for holding the ingredients, it is to be noted that it can have more than two / three cans depending upon the choices of ingredients required for the manufacture of the paints. The openings in the cans may preferably be at their top. The cans are interconnected by means of a pipe (3) which may be made of rubber, plastic, stainless steel. The pipe is provided with valves (4), each can having separate valves. Though any type of valves which operate on receiving electronic signals may be used for adjusting the flow of the said ingredients from the cans (2), it is preferable to use an electrically operated valve. Similarly, while any pump (6) may be used, it is preferable to use a screw pump with variable frequency drive (VFD) considering the accuracy at which the paint ingredients are

dispensed. At high speed the pump dispenses 80% of the paint ingredients and the remaining 20 % is dispensed at low speed for accurate cut off.

The cans (2) used for holding the ingredients may be of suitable sizes, such as 50 litres , 100 litres, 150 litres, 200 litres drums and the like, based on the appropriate use of the device at the Point of Sale (Retailer or Stockist or Depot).

The ingredients used in the cans (2) incorporated in the device of the present invention may be selected from the following : Filler base comprising blends of extenders like talc, china clay, calcite, etc., TiO_2 base comprising Titanium Dioxide, Emulsion base comprising a high binding emulsion polymer along with rheological modifiers, etc. Each can (2) will contain the individual ingredients. These 3 cans are preferred arrangement. Additional cans be used for separate emulsion polymer for exterior paint additives.

The pump is controlled by the control system. The control system selects one ingredient for dispensing at a time & sequentially dispenses all the other ingredients. The speed of the motor does the coarse and fine feed arrangement. The motor speed is regulated to dispense 80% of the required quantity at high speed and for balance 20%, motor runs at a lower speed. It also measures the paint container weight through the load cell & controls the pump speed through variable frequency drive (VFD). After addition of all the ingredients, the filled paint container is closed and taken out from the device and mixed thoroughly. The mixing can be effected preferably by keeping the container kept inside a gyro-shaker for sufficient period say about 3 minutes for thorough mixing of the ingredients.

The data used in the device of the present invention is based on empirical data, derived from various combinations of paint ingredients. For example, the data incorporated in the device of the present invention may consist of the following information :

S.NO.	F.B.	TB	E.B.	Hiding	Whiteness	Wet Scrub	Gloss @ 85°	Colour Strength	WPL	Cost/ Ltr(Rs.)
1	95	0	5	92.92	78.338	70	6.1	14.82	1.477	39.50
2	92.5	0	7.5	92.05	76.653	195	6.3	13.81	1.460	41.00
5	92.5	2.5	5	91.76	78.978	95	3.5	17.14	1.481	45.00
8	85	2.5	12.5	89.29	73.841	900	3.3	13.08	1.434	49.00
9	90	5	5	94.83	79.102	105	4.7	18.77	1.486	50.00
12	82.5	5	12.5	91.93	78.084	920	2.8	14.96	1.438	54.00
13	87.5	7.5	5	96.61	81.386	75	5.2	21.19	1.491	55.50
16	80	7.5	12.5	91.51	78.941	1010	3.9	16.06	1.442	59.00
17	85	10	5	95.75	82.637	95	3.5	21.05	1.495	60.50
18	82.5	10	7.5	94.81	81.658	170	3.1	21.07	1.479	62.00
21	80	12.5	7.5	95.22	83.12	235	3.4	22.35	1.483	67.00
24	72.5	12.5	15	90.73	79.806	2000	4	17.98	1.436	70.50
25	77.5	15	7.5	95.78	86.965	360	3.7	23.73	1.488	72.50
28	70	15	15	95.01	87.01	1800	4.2	19.23	1.440	75.50
29	72.5	17.5	10	96.51	87.88	625	4.3	23.59	1.476	79.00
30	70	17.5	12.5	95.94	87.176	925	3.5	21.94	1.460	80.00
31	67.5	17.5	15	94.97	86.401	2020	3.4	21.37	1.444	81.00
32	65	17.5	17.5	93.68	85.83	2300	4.6	19	1.599	82.00
35	65	20	15	95.55	82.844	1890	3.6	21.26	1.449	86.00
36	62.5	20	17.5	95.09	86.834	2300	3.6	19.43	1.433	87.00
37	67.5	22.5	10	97.21	88.394	720	4.9	24.93	1.485	89.50
38	65	22.5	12.5	95.53	88.193	960	4.1	23.09	1.469	90.50
41	62.5	25	12.5	96.42	88.271	820	4.8	24.05	1.474	96.00
42	60	25	15	96.39	88.168	1700	4.4	23.55	1.458	97.00
43	57.5	25	17.5	96.99	88.742	1820	4.4	21.3	1.442	97.50

S.NO.	F.B.	TB	E.B.	Hiding	Whiteness	Wet Scrub	Gloss @ 85°	Colour Strength	WPL	Cost/ Ltr(Rs.)
47	60	27.5	12.5	97.4	86.685	1100	4.9	27.44	1.478	101.00
48	57.5	27.5	15	95.1	86.617	1800	58	25.87	1.462	102.00
51	57.5	30	12.5	99.04	86.659	950	5.8	29.09	1.483	107.00
54	50	30	20	96.132	86.863	3300	5	25.12	1.435	109.00
55	52.5	32.5	15	96.7	87.708	1900	5.4	27.39	1.471	113.00
56	50	32.5	17.5	96.47	87.309	2500	5.5	26.11	1.455	113.50
59	50	35	15	98.772	88.878	2050	7.9	27.89	1.476	118.50
60	48.5	35	17.5	97.13	86.994	2250	5.9	26.89	1.460	119.50
63	47.5	37.5	15	98.86	88.207	1800	7.9	28.54	1.480	124.00
66	40	37.5	22.5	97.13	85.972	4000	6.3	23.64	1.433	125.00
67	42.5	40	17.5	98.728	88.836	2300	8.2	27.47	1.469	130.00
68	40	40	20	98.34	88.112	3200	8.1	26.44	1.453	130.50
71	40	42.5	17.5	96.322	88.527	2300	9.2	29.08	1.473	135.00
72	37.5	42.5	20	96.51	88.324	3200	8.8	27.41	1.457	135.50
75	35	45	20	97.9	88.815	4200	10.4	26.23	1.462	141.00
76	32.5	45	22.5	96.35	87.607	5000	9.5	25.85	1.446	141.50
77	30	45	25	96.09	87.945	5000	8.9	24.36	1.430	142.00
78	27.5	45	27.5	95.59	87.661	5000	9.2	22.71	1.415	142.00
81	27.5	47.5	25	95.277	87.674	5000	9.7	27.34	1.435	147.00
82	25	47.5	27.5	94.22	87.393	5000	9	25.44	1.419	147.50
83	27.5	50	22.5	96.873	88.617	4300	14.7	28.76	1.455	152.50
84	25	50	25	95.738	88.327	5000	13.1	26.67	1.439	152.50
88	15	50	35	86.68	86.153	5000	16.7	28.46	1.380	153.00
89	12.5	50	37.5	93.54	87.677	5000	15.6	25.52	1.365	153.50
90	7.5	50	42.5	94.76	87.576	5000	24.4	26.04	1.338	153.50
91	56	30	14	97.5	86.867	1400	6.7	29.28	1.473	107.00
126	10	40	50	91.387	87.837	>5000	40	23.76	1.285	134.50

S.NO.	F.B.	TB	E.B.	Hiding	Whiteness	Wet Scrub	Gloss @ 85°	Colour Strength	WPL	Cost/ Ltr(Rs.)
127	10	45	45	89.379	87.44	>5000	30	23.86	1.317	144.00
128	15	40	45	86.853	86.667	>5000	17.7	25.28	1.310	134.00
129	17	38	45	88.93	86.239	>5000	15	23.13	1.307	130.00
130	12.5	42.5	45	84.822	87.415	>5000	19.5	19.59	1.314	139.00
131	15	40	45	86.225	86.221	5000	15	20.1	1.310	134.00
132	17.5	37.5	45	85.24	85.763	5000	14	20.19	1.307	129.00
133	20	35	45	83.735	85.65	5000	15.3	22.1	1.303	124.00
134	25	32.5	42.5	85.287	85.843	>5000	11.4	21.33	1.312	119.00
135	27.5	30	42.5	80.261	85.351	5000	11.8	20.65	1.309	114.00

S.No : Serial Number

F.B : Filler Base - Paint ingredient comprising mainly of blend of extender pigments like Talc, China clay, Calcite, etc.

T B : Titanium Dioxide Base - Paint ingredient comprising mainly of Titanium dioxide.

EB : Emulsion Base - Paint ingredient mainly comprising high binding Emulsion Polymer along with rheological modifiers.

Hiding : Contrast Ratio

WPL : Weight per litre in Kg's.

The above data has been arrived at based on the accepted and recognized standards for the purpose. Accordingly the following standards have been utilised for preparing the data :

1. **Paint Opacity** or **hiding** measured as Contrast Ratio as per ASTM 2805. Paint opacity will determine the covering capacity, higher the contrast ratio better will be the covering capacity.
2. **Whiteness** measured as Whiteness Index as per ASTM D2244

3. **Wet Scrub** measured as No. of strokes of brush on Wet Abrasion Tester before failure as per ASTM D 2486 – 96 using 1% soap solution instead of scrub media.
4. **Colour strength** or depth of colour, which can be achieved on addition of stainers, measured as Reflectance index (ASTM D 5326 – 94), higher the reflectance index, lower will be the colour depth.
5. **Cost / Litre** of paint in Indian rupees or any other currency of choice.
6. **Stain resistance** measured as loss of whiteness in dE value, which is the colour difference between painted panel before staining and after washing off the stain as per ASTM D3258 – 73.
7. **Gloss** measured on Gloss-meter at 85° angle.
8. **Covering Capacity** measured as sq. mt. / litre of Paint, which is empirically arrived at by applying the Paint and measuring the spreading rate for giving good coverage of the surface.

Every possible combination of the above ingredients is characterized for these 8 paint properties by experimentation. This matrix correlating various possible combinations of these ingredients to its 8 properties are taken into consideration. This information will be upgraded continuously.

The device has been fabricated in such a way that it is possible to translate/convert/produce/suit the customer's requirements of the paint properties. After the selection and desired proportions of the ingredients are determined, commands are given through the control system to prepare the desired paint.

The control system is a device, which can be an embedded control on a personal computer or a programmable logic controller. The control system used is fabricated specially for use in the device of the present invention. As stated above, the system is shown in Fig. 3. The system should have essentially the following controller features:

1. It should have user interface in the form of display and keyboard
2. It should be able to take input from one load-cell
3. It should have adequate memory or data storage for storing recipes
4. It should be able to control the electrically operated valve through relay outputs
5. It should be compact
6. It should have expansion possibility for future requirements

The system should also have basic functional inputs for the following :

1. The controller to take the weight as input and activate valves and pump to dispense desired quantities.
2. The controller to take input from the user and determine the recipe.
3. The controller to dispense each ingredient as per recipe

Based on above requirements, a control system has been fabricated comprising

(a) Display Driver

Display driver drives the human interface. Functionally the controller needs only text interface. For better presentation, the LCD with display of 256 colours and a resolution of 640 x 480 (256 colour) TFT LCD pixels is considered.

(b) Keyboard Interface

The keyboard used may be a dust and water-resistant with Membrane keypad.

User interacts with paint dispensing system using this keyboard.

(c) Data storage and calculation

Since the number of paint grades can be infinite, the data related to corresponding properties and quantity of ingredients is stored at very small intervals of combination of ingredients. Data can be for infinite combinations, but build up of data will be on a continuous basis and will be appended periodically on the machine by replacing the smart card.

(d) Memory

The system will have 2 types of memory. First will be flash memory to store programmes and data that does not need to be secured. There will be also RAM (random access memory) to store dynamic data that will be needed during programme execution.

(e) Digital I/O

The central processing unit interacts with valves and pump through digital I/O card. The pumps and valves operate from 230 V AC supply. This I/O is isolated from CPU using opto-coupler output.

(f) Relays

Optically isolated relays are provided for isolation between I/O and the field components like valves and pumps to avoid accidental high voltage short circuit damage to the control system.

While fabricating the control system, other considerations such as real time clock for date and time, Switched Mode Power Supply are considered, based on actual requirements.

Working of the device:

The following sequential operations have to be effected as shown in Fig. 4 :

Step 1: Selecting of the desired Paint

In the first step for the manufacturing process of the paint using the device of the present invention, the operator starts the sequence by pressing the 'START' key. User has to select the paint category i.e., design one's own paint or any equivalent paint available in the market. After the selection, the related screen will be shown in the panel screen. The user has to select the desired area to be painted, room details, budget range, etc. and set the default parameter. If the user is happy with the current selection then he/she has to click the next button as explained in the Step 2 given below.

Step 2: Selecting the parameter

As per the user's selection in Step 1, he / she will get the set of parameters as per the budget range selected in Step 1.

The first list view will provide the list of existing parameters that is available in the budget range selected in the Step 1. If the user again wants to modify the already selected parameters in step 1 as per the budget, then he has to set the budget from the slider bar provided. After setting the budget, click on the SET BUDGET button.

This action will filter the existing list.

The customer can again filter the existing records by increasing or decreasing the 5 parameters provided. The result of these selections will be shown in the second list view. If the customer is satisfied with his selection, then, he can click the NEXT button, as explained below which will take him to the confirmation page.

Step 3: Confirmation of the paint selected

After the customer has set the default parameters he / she comes to this page where he / she has to confirm his / her selection. Here he / she has to select the package quantity that he / she wants. After selecting the package quantity the cost per litre is shown and the total cost. If the customer is sure of his / her selection and the package quantity he / she can submit the paint combination by clicking the SUBMIT button. This will take him / her to the process page where the preparation process of the selected paint begins.

Step 4: Starting the paint making process

The device is installed at an outlet such as the retailer's outlet. The customer can select the required paint through a Menu Driven system. After selection of the process data by

the customer, the ingredient quantity will be downloaded to the device for the following sequential operation :

1. The customer starts the sequence by pressing a single membrane key. Then the first ingredient line's electrically operated valves opens & pump starts automatically.
2. The variable frequency drive (VFD) connected to the pump will have few sets of I/O contacts for pre-defined speed. Speed is decided based on the weight range (two speeds for each recipe definable range up to say 5/15/25 Kg.) and not on the type of the ingredient.
3. First the pump will run at higher speed. After dispensing 80% of required quantity, based on load cell indication, the speed will be reduced to second set value.
4. The pump will stop after addition of required quantity of the first ingredient. After time gap of a few seconds (recipe definable), the electrically operated valve will close.
5. The same procedure (1 to 3) is to be followed for the 2nd & 3rd ingredient dispensing sequentially.
6. For thorough homogenous mixing of the ingredients, the filled paint container is closed, removed and mixed. The mixing may preferably be done by keeping it inside the gyroshaker for a period of say, about 3 minutes.
7. After dispensing the required number of paint containers, the water cleaning operation can be started manually. The user will operate a membrane key on the panel to open the water inlet valve, and continue till desired cleaning is achieved. (The effluents generated will be collected in an external container & later same will be returned to supplier of Paint ingredients, for Effluent treatment).

The details of using the device of the invention is described in the examples given below which are given only for illustration purposes and therefore should not be construed to limit the scope of the present invention.

Example 1.

A customer comes to a Point of Sale (retailer's shop), for his requirement of paint for coating interior room walls of his house measuring 500 sq. mtr. in pastel (light) colour. His budget for the paint is for 1st quality Emulsion Paint of about Rs.160 / litre or Rs.10 / sq. mtr. The customer feeds his inputs into the human machine interface available in the form of membrane keyboard in an embedded control system or a computer, and menu driven process starts as shown in flow chart Fig. 4 as detailed below :

- Step 1: Select – Design your own paint.
- Step 2: Select – Interior Room Walls.
- Step 3: Enter area to be painted as 500 sq. mtr.
- Step 4: Select budget range as 1st quality or enter value as Rs.160 / litre.
- Step 5: Select colour depth – **Pastels**.
- Step 6: Select highest priority property – **Wet Scrub**.
- Step 7: Default options of paint with highest wet scrub possible in given cost of Rs.160 / litre and with which, pastel shade can be achieved. These options are picked up based on inputs given in Steps 1 to 6.
- Step 8: **Iterate** other properties i.e. opacity, whiteness, stain resistance & gloss on a slider scale. This **iteration** automatically revises the option.
- Step 9: Select best option. If still not satisfied, go back to Step 8 for further iteration of properties.
- Step 10: Final option selected.
- Step 11: Display of selected paint properties, quantity required, cost / litre and cost / sq. mtr. and total material cost.
 If satisfied, select – 'Submit'.
- Step 12: Ingredients are computed from database, which match the selected paint properties.

- Step 13: Commands are given to the device, which starts the pump and opens the valve to dispense computed quantity of each ingredient to make the required total quantity of paint in multiples of biggest pack sizes.
- Step 14: Filled pack is closed and taken out and kept inside a gyroshaker or (any other type of mixing device) and mixed for 3 minutes to give final paint having the customer defined and designed properties.

At the end of the above operation, the paint designed by the customer having the desired properties and the cost is produced, to the customer's satisfaction.

Example 2

A customer comes to a point of sale (Retailer's shop), for his requirement of a paint equivalent to some branded paint "Brand X" for his house measuring 500 sq. mtr. in pastel colour. The customer gives his inputs into the human machine interface available in the form of membrane keypad of embedded control system or a computer, and menu driven process starts as shown in flow chart shown in Fig. 4 as detailed below :

- Step 1: Select – Equivalent to some branded paint "Brand X" available in market.
- Step 2: Select Colour depth – Pastels.
- Step 3: Default option of paint with equivalent parameters to "Brand X" is derived for pastel shade.
- Step 4: Iterate other properties i.e., opacity, whiteness, wet scrub & gloss on a slider scale to mix & max the desired parameters to be changed. This iteration automatically revises the option.
- Step 5: Select best option. If still not satisfied, go back to Step 8 for further iteration of properties.
- Step 6: Final option selected.
- Step 7: Display of selected paint properties, quantity required, cost / litre and cost / sq. mtr. and total material cost.
If satisfied, select – 'Submit'.

- Step 8: Ingredients are computed from database, which match the selected paint properties.
- Step 9: Commands are given to the device which starts the pump and opens the valve to dispense computed quantity of each ingredient to make the required total quantity of paint in multiples of biggest pack sizes.
- Step 10: Filled pack is closed and taken out and kept inside a gyroshaker and mixed for 3 minutes to give final paint having the customer defined and designed properties.

At the end of the above operation the paint designed by the customer having the desired properties and the cost is produced.

Example - 3

A customer comes to a point of sale (Retailer's shop), for his requirement of paint for painting kitchen room walls of his house measuring 100 sq. mtr. in pastel colour. His budget for the paint is for emulsion paint of about Rs.160 / litre or Rs.10 / sq. mtr. The customer gives his inputs into the human machine interface available in the form of membrane keypad of embedded control system or a computer, and menu driven process starts as shown in flow chart shown in

Fig. 4 as detailed below :

- Step 1: Select – Design your own paint (emulsion paint).
- Step 2: Select – kitchen room walls.
- Step 3: Enter area to be painted as 100 sq. mtr.
- Step 4: Select budget range, enter value as Rs.160 / litre.
- Step 5: Select colour depth – **Pastels**.
- Step 6: Select highest priority property – **Stain resistance**.
- Step 7: Default options of paint with highest stain resistance possible in given cost of Rs.160 / litre and with which, pastel shade can be achieved. These options are picked up based on inputs given in Step 1 to Step 6.

- Step 8: **Iterate** other properties i.e., opacity, whiteness, wet scrub & gloss on a slider scale. This **iteration** automatically revises the option.
- Step 9: Select best option. If still not satisfied, go back to Step 8 for further iteration of properties.
- Step 10: Final option selected.
- Step 11: Display of selected paint properties, quantity required, cost / litre and cost / sq. mtr. and total material cost.
If satisfied, select – 'Submit'.
- Step 12: Ingredients are computed from database, which match the selected paint properties.
- Step 13: Commands are given to the device, which starts the pump and opens the valve to dispense computed quantity of each ingredient to make the required total quantity of paint in multiples of biggest pack sizes.
- Step 14: Filled pack is closed and taken out and kept inside a gyroshaker and mixed for 3 minutes to give final paint having the customer defined and designed properties.

At the end of the above operation the paint designed by the customer having the desired properties and the cost is produced.

Advantages of the device of the present invention:

1. The device has the options to determine the cost, usage and functional properties i.e. coverage, opacity or hiding, whiteness, wet scrub, colour depth, stain resistance, gloss, etc. of the paint.
2. Infinite number of variations possible for all parameters – present bulk manufacturers have 4-5 grades as economy, premium, deluxe, etc.
3. The device can be used for manufacturing desired quantity, which may be small or large. Presently manufacturing is done in bulk, which is in large quantity.

4. The customer-defined paint can be manufactured using the device at the point of sale.
5. The customer-defined / designed paint can be manufactured within a few minutes.
6. The coarse & fine feed arrangement is done by pump speed variation, not by the varying valve opening thereby cutting off dispensing instantly without residual dripping.
7. There is no valve on the pump discharge pipe. Whenever the pump stops, the ingredient residual in the pipe comes down to the corresponding ingredient can under gravity, without further addition to the final paint container. This helps in reducing the weight variation of dispensed ingredient.
8. As the device is a menu driven control system, the process of manufacturing paint employing the device is very much reliable.
9. There is no wastage of paint as the customer manufactures the paint as per his actual requirements.
10. The device can be operated by a layman, meaning that no special skill is required.

We claim

1. A device for instant manufacture of customized paint which comprises a container (1) housing at least two cans (2) for holding the ingredients useful for preparing the paint, each can being provided with an opening through which the cans are interconnected by means of a pipe (3), the pipe (3) being provided with valves (4) which operate on electronic signals for adjusting the flow of the said ingredients from the said cans (2), the pipe (5) being connected to a pump (6) for pumping the said ingredients from the said cans (2) into the paint container (7), the pump (6) being provided with a variable frequency drive (VFD) (8) for varying the flow rate of the quantities of the said ingredients from the said cans (2) to the container, the paint container (7) being removably placed on a weighing platform (9), for weighing the paint formed in the paint container (7), the weight being transmitted to a control system (10) to control the variable frequency drive (VFD) (8), pump (6) and valve (4), the control system (10), comprising an embedded controller having a LCD (liquid crystal display) (11) provided with a central processing unit (14), the output of weighing platform (9) being connected to the central processing unit (14), one terminal of the central processing unit being connected to the LCD (liquid crystal display) (11), second terminal of the central processing unit (14) being connected to a smart card (15), the third terminal of the central processing unit interacting with the memory (17), the fourth terminal of the central processing unit being connected to the input of the digital input/output device (16), the output of the digital input/output device (16) being connected to a relay board (18) and the output of the relay board (18) being connected to the variable frequency drive (8), and to the valves (4) and membrane keyboard (12) for human interface.

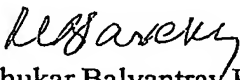
2. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the container (1) is partly closed as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings.

3. A device as claimed in claims 1 & 2 wherein the container (1) is provided with doors at appropriate places.
4. A device as claimed in claims 1 to 3 wherein the bottom of the container (1) is provided with rollers (13) to facilitate easy installation of the cans inside the container.
5. A device as claimed in claims 1 to 4 wherein the device contains three cans (2) for holding the ingredients.
6. A device as claimed in claim 5 wherein each can (2), contains the following ingredients (i) filler base (ii) TiO_2 base and (iii) emulsion base.
7. A device as claimed in claim 6 wherein the filler base such as blends of extenders like talc, china clay, calcite, etc. is used.
8. A device as claimed in claim 6 wherein the TiO_2 base such as rutile titanium dioxide is used.
9. A device as claimed in claim 6 wherein the emulsion base, such as high binding acrylic emulsion polymer along with rheological modifiers are used.
10. A device as claimed in claims 1 to 9 wherein the openings in the cans (2) are at their top.
11. A device as claimed in claims 1 to 10 wherein the pipes (3) are made of PVC and pipes (5) made of stainless steel.
12. A device as claimed in claims 1 to 11 wherein the valves provided in the pipes are motorized valves.

13. A device as claimed in claims 1 to 12 wherein the pump used is a screw pump.
14. A device as claimed in claims 1 to 13 wherein the cans used to hold the ingredients are of suitable size such as 50 litres, 100 litres, 150 litres, 200 litres and the like based on the appropriate use of the device at the point of sale (retailer or stockist or depot).
15. A control system (10) for use in a device as defined in claims 1 to 14 which comprises an embedded controller having a LCD (liquid crystal display) (11) provided with a central processing unit (14), the output of weighing platform (9) being connected to the central processing unit (14), one terminal of the central processing unit being connected to the LCD (liquid crystal display) (11), second terminal of the central processing unit (14) being connected to a smart card (15), the third terminal of the central processing unit interacting with the memory (17), the fourth terminal of the central processing unit being connected to the input of the digital input / output device (16), the output of the digital input/output device (16) being connected to a relay board (18) and the output of the relay board (18) being connected to the variable frequency drive (8), and to the valves (4) and membrane keyboard (12) for human interface.
16. A method of instant manufacturing of customized paint using a device as defined in claims 1 to 14 substantially as herein described with reference to the Figs. 1 to 4 of the drawing accompanying this specification.
17. A control system for use in a device as claimed in claims 1 to 14 wherein the display device is an LCD (liquid crystal display) with 256 colour and a resolution of 640 x 480 TFT LCD pixels.
18. A control system as claimed in claims 16 to 17 wherein the keyboard interface used is a dust and water-resistant membrane keypad.

19. A device for instant manufacturing of customized paint substantially as herein described with reference to Figs. 1 to 4 of the drawing accompanying this specification.
20. A method for instant manufacturing of customized paint using the device as claimed in claims 1 to 14 and 19 substantially as herein described with reference to Figs. 1 to 4 of the drawing accompanying this specification.
21. A control system for use in a device as claimed in claims 1 to 14 substantially as herein described with reference to Fig. 3 of the drawing accompanying this specification.

Dated 21st day of October' 2002

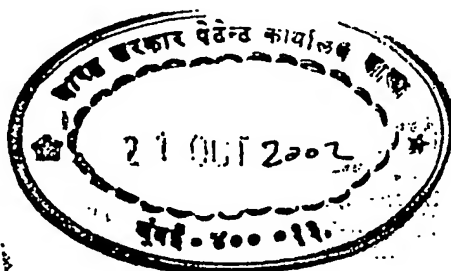

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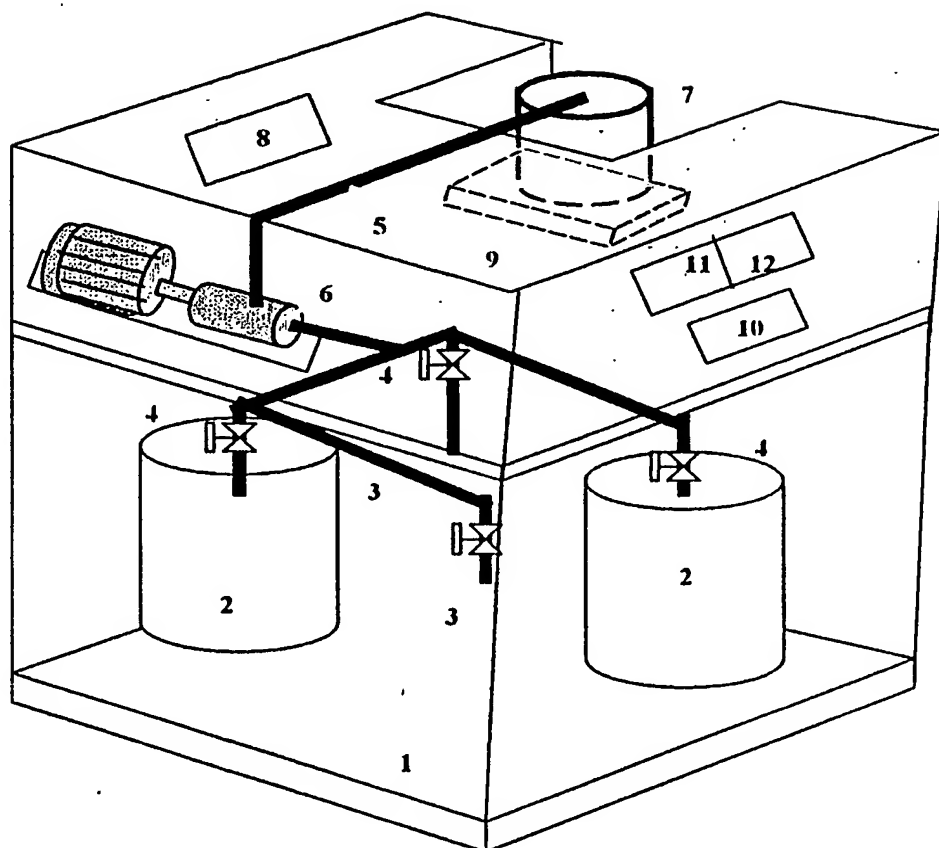
ABSTRACT

A DEVICE FOR INSTANT MANUFACTURE OF CUSTOMIZED PAINT, A CONTROL SYSTEM FOR USE IN THE SAID DEVICE AND A PROCESS FOR MAKING THE PAINT USING THE DEVICE

The invention disclosed in this application relates to a device for instant manufacture of customized paint which comprises a container (1) housing at least two cans (2) for holding the ingredients useful for preparing the paint, each can being provided with an opening through which the cans are interconnected by means of a pipe (3), the pipe (3) being provided with valves (4) which operate on electronic signals for adjusting the flow of the said ingredients from the said cans (2), the pipe (5) being connected to a pump (6) for pumping the said ingredients from the said cans (2) into the paint container (7), the pump (6) being provided with a variable frequency drive (VFD) (8) for varying the flow rate of the quantities of the said ingredients from the said cans (2) to the container, the paint container (7) being removably placed on a weighing platform (9), for weighing the paint formed in the paint container (7), the weight being transmitted to a control system (10) to control the variable frequency drive (VFD) (8), pump (6) and valve (4), the control system (10), comprising an embedded controller having a LCD (liquid crystal display) (11) provided with a central processing unit (14), the output of weighing platform (9) being connected to the central processing unit (14), one terminal of the central processing unit being connected to the LCD (liquid crystal display) (11), second terminal of the central processing unit (14) being connected to a smart card (15), the third terminal of the central processing unit interacting with the memory (17), the fourth terminal of the central processing unit being connected to the input of the digital input output device (16), the output of the digital input/output device (16) being connected to a relay board (18) and the output of the relay board (18) being connected to the variable frequency drive (8), and to the valves (4) and membrane keyboard (12) for human interface. The invention also relates to a control system for use in a device defined above and a method of making the paint using the device.

The device and the control system are shown in Fig 1 & 2 respectively given in the next page.



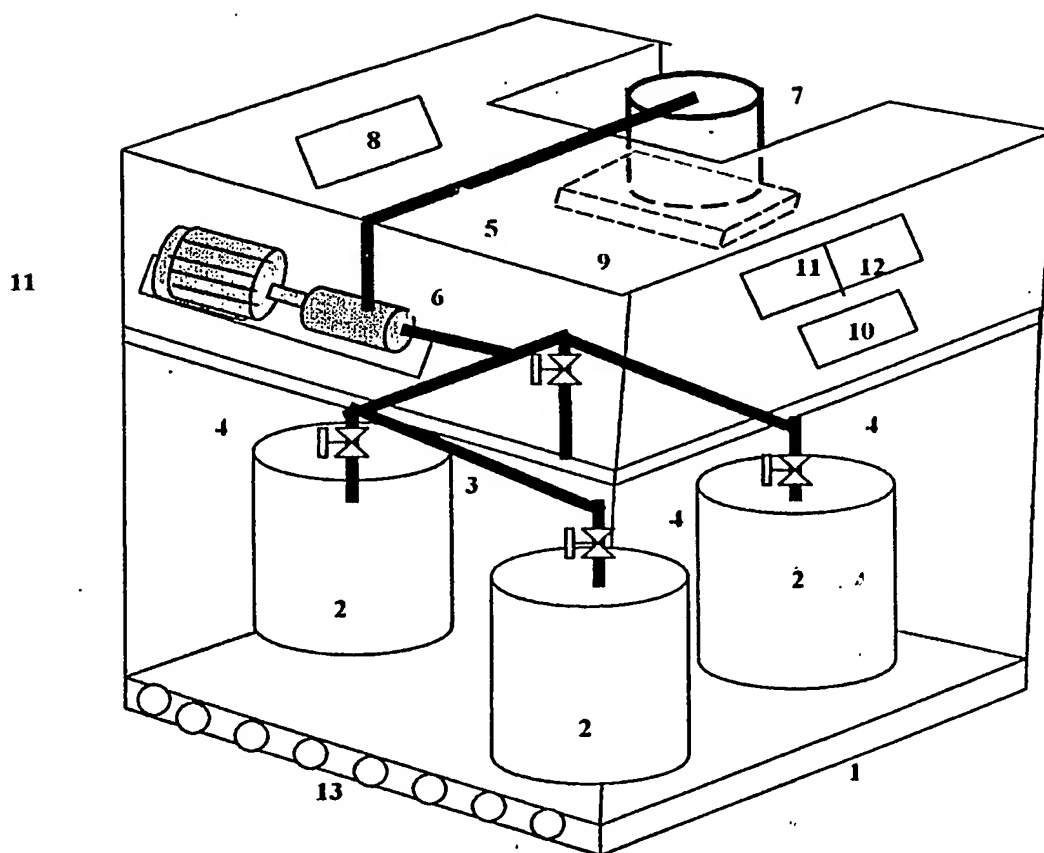


KMarek
APPLICANTS

21 OCT 2002

FIG. 2

TOTAL SHEETS: 04
SHEET: 02



U. Marek
APPLICANTS

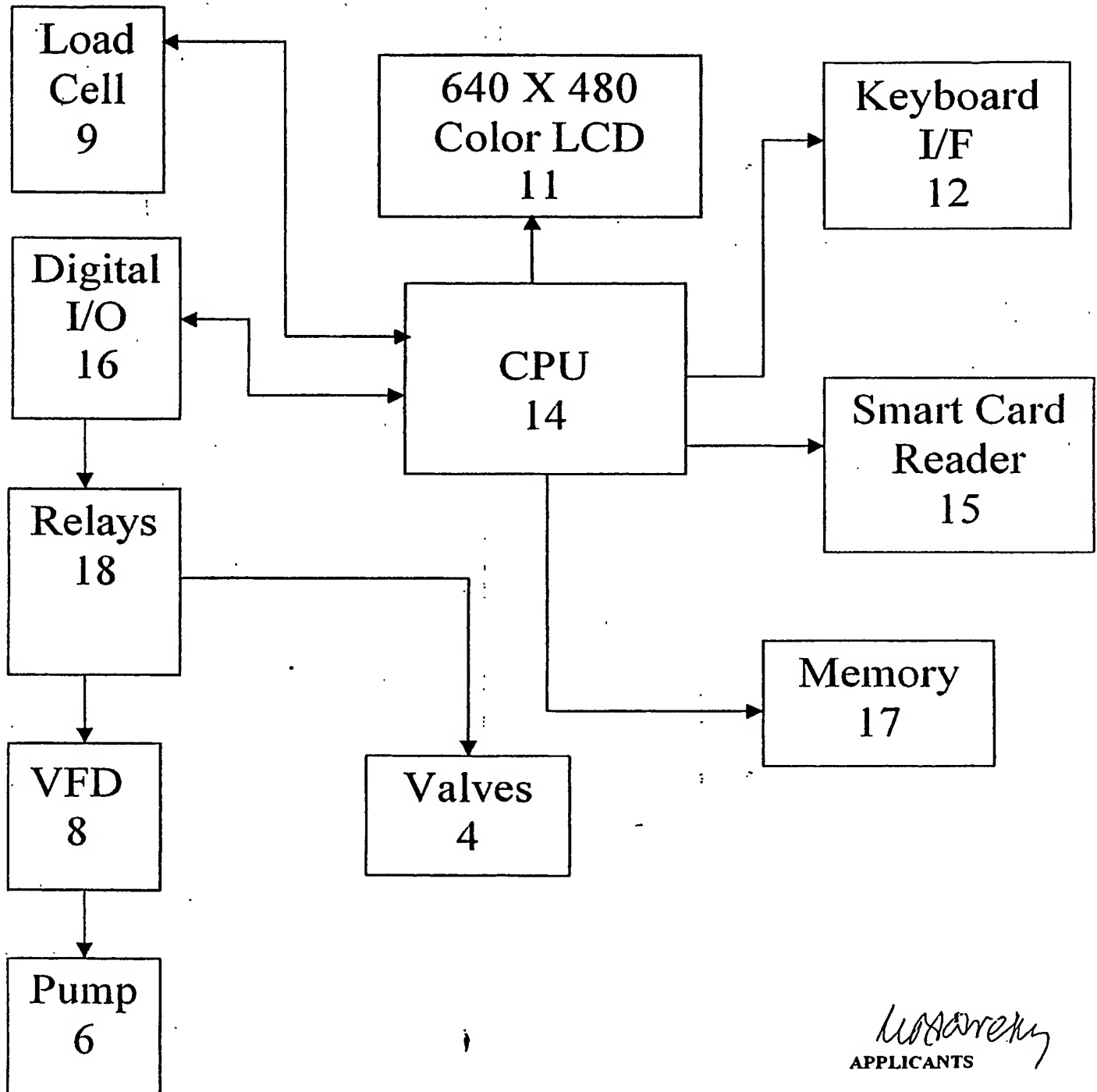
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FIG.3

TOTAL SHEETS: 04

SHEET : 03

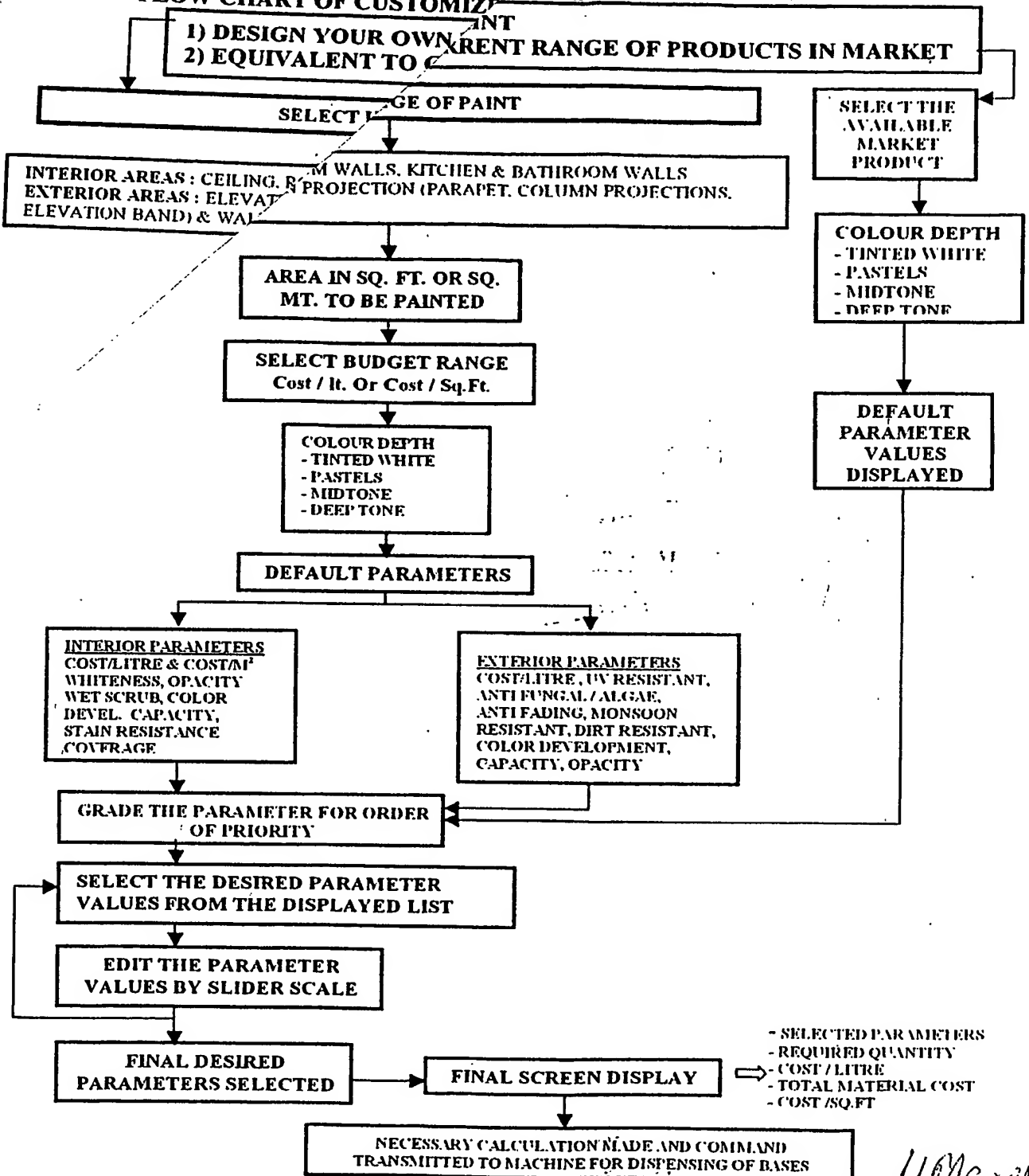
CONTROL SYSTEM FLOW DIAGRAM



Signature
APPLICANTS

211 OCT 2002

FLOW CHART OF CUSTOMIZED EMULSION PAINT PROCESS



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